

NID 81

January 30, 1981

SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

The tough statement by the Polish Council of Ministers yesterday increases the pressure on Solidarity and may have set the stage for an eventual declaration of a state of national emergency.

The highly unusual official statement--the first of its kind since the Gdansk accord was signed last August--warned that if labor turmoil is not halted, the government would have to take necessary steps to "ensure law, order, and discipline."

The regime clearly hopes that the warning will compel Solidarity to moderate its demands. If this does not occur, increasing evidence indicates that the regime is preparing to take more drastic steps.

the government has prepared extensive plans for the possible use of the police. These reports also indicate that important members of the regime believe that confrontation with Solidarity involving the use of force is necessary and inevitable.

The regime's threat puts pressure on the union's national leadership to regain control over locally initiated strike activity. Solidarity's appeal on Wednesday for an end to most strikes apparently had little impact as labor unrest continued throughout Poland yesterday.

The threat could strengthen the hand of the moderates in Solidarity, such as Walesa, who have resisted the use of strikes and believe the union should assume a more responsible posture. There are certainly many in the union, however, who will thumb their noses at what they may consider a heavyhanded bluff.

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Solidarity leaders will be looking for a clearer sign of government intentions during negotiations with Prime Minister Pinkowski that are slated for today. Solidarity has proposed that the two sides discuss the free Saturday issue, censorship, Solidarity's access to the media, and the registration of Rural Solidarity. This is the first time Solidarity has directly championed the farmers' demands for an independent union.

The government said in its statement yesterday that it is willing to negotiate but indicated that it wants to restrict discussions to "problems of the trade union movement." The regime's recent behavior also suggests that it will not be in a mood to give much ground.

Moscow Lends Support

In a move apparently timed to coincide with the Polish warning, Moscow yesterday made its most sweeping condemnation of Solidarity to date.

The Soviets, in a dispatch attributed to a TASS correspondent in Warsaw, for the first time charged Solidarity with attempting to make itself a "political opposition." TASS claimed that the union's leaders are "stepping up anarchy" in Poland by resorting to blackmail, provocations, and the use of physical force.

Attempting to debunk the idea that Solidarity has wide popular support, the article asserted that "more and more Poles" are beginning to ask: "What is Solidarity really up to?" The Polish people are becoming concerned, it went on, about the damage continuous strikes are causing Poland's economy.

By singling out the leaders of Solidarity and the dissident group KOR, the TASS item appeared to lend support to the Polish regime's reported plan to isolate the militants in the union. the Soviets have given their blessing to such a confrontation with Solidarity. We believe that the Kremlin has been urging the Polish party to take stronger measures since the 5 December Warsaw Pact summit.

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The Soviets apparently issued the article to add weight to the Council of Ministers' statement and to bolster the Kania regime at a critical point. At the same time, their scathing attack on Solidarity further restricts Kania's room for compromise in negotiating with the union. [REDACTED]

The Bulgarians, who have not commented a great deal on Poland, repeated almost the entire Soviet statement. [REDACTED]